

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /069 W
-----130720Z 048469 /10

R 130410Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8046
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
S/AMEMBASSY PARIS 7267
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0722

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROP PFOR PBOR LA TH
SUBJECT: MFA CALLS PRESS CONFERENCE TO PROTEST ALLEGED THAI SUPPORT
OF LAO RESISTANCE

1. THE LAO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) COVENED
A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 1530 HOURS (LOCAL TIME) APRIL 12
FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AND DIPLOMATIC MISSION PRESS
REPRESENTATIVES TO PROTEST THAI SUPPORT FOR REBELS WHO
SEIZED CHING CHU AND SANG KHI ISLANDS.

2. THE CONFERENCE WAS CONDUCTED BY THE MFA'S DIRECTOR OF
INFORMATION AND PRESS, KITHONG VONGSAY, AND FEATURED
THE DISPLAY OF MATERIAL ALLEGEDLY LEFT BEHIND BY THE
FLEEING REBELS, THE EXHIBITION OF TWO REBELS ALLEGEDLY
CAPTURED ON THE ISLAND, AND PRESENTATION OF "WITNESS"
ACCOUNTS BY "FARMERS FROM THE ISLAND."

3. KYTHONG REPEATED CHARGES OF THAI SUPPORT FOR THE
REBEL FORCES ON BOTH ISLANDS, SAYING THAT THE LAO REBELS
WERE TRAINED, ARMED AND SUPPLIED WITH PROVISIONS AT
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THE NONG KHAI REFUGEE CAMP. KYTHONG REPATED LAO
DEMANDS THAT THE THAI RETURN THE REBELS WHO FLED INTO
THAILAND, RETURN THOSE LAO CITIZENS FROM SANG KHI
ISLAND WHO WERE "FORCED TO GO TO THAILAND BY THE
REBELS" AND CEASE HOSTILE ACTS TOWARD THE LPDR.

4. DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS WERE ALLOWED TO QUESTION

THE "FARMERS" AND THE ALLEGED PRISONERS WHO WERE CONSISTENTLY COACHED IN THEIR REPLIES BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ONE PRISONER DID RESPOND DIRECTLY TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION IN LAO, AFFIRMING THAT THAI TROOPS WERE PRESENT ON THE LAO ISLAND OF CHING CHU DURING THE REBEL OCCUPATION.

5. COMMENT: THE PRODUCTION WAS HEAVY HANDED AND PROPAGANDISTIC WITH FREQUENT INTERPOLATION OF GOVERNMENT VIEWS IN "FARMER" AND "PRISONER" RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS AS TRANSLATED BY GOVERNMENT INTERPRETERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, PRESS CONFERENCES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENTI00722
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770127-0819
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770459/aaaabzqv.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3138b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2812607
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MFA CALLS PRESS CONFERENCE TO PROTEST ALLEGED THAI SUPPORT OF LAO RESISTANCE
TAGS: PROP, PFOR, PBOR, LA, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3138b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009